

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 9, 2011

Contact:

Supervising Ranger  
Denis Poole

(209) 826-1197

## **San Luis Reservoir Vessel Inspections for Quagga and Zebra Mussels to Begin October 1, 2011**

All vessels entering San Luis Reservoir's four boat ramp facilities will be inspected for Quagga and Zebra Mussels prior to entering the water beginning October 1, 2011.

The following points highlight requirements to be implemented, with added explanations following in this news release.

### **Requirements for Launching Boats**

- Only boats which pass inspections will be permitted to launch.
- Inspected boats will receive inspection seals upon leaving which will, if unbroken, allow launching without inspection the following visit.
- If a vessel has been on an infested body of water within the last seven days it must be cleaned, drained, and dry for seven days (more below).
- Any vessel which fails an inspection will be designated as quarantined (more below).
- All boat ramps will be closed to boating from 8:00 pm until 6 am each day until opened by the inspectors.

The inspection program is designed to prevent the introduction or spread of the European Quagga and Zebra Mussels into the California State Reservoirs, the California State Water Systems or California State Aqueducts. This devastating mollusk, once introduced, quickly takes over a waterway and encrusts everything to which it can attach, destroys natural plankton, gradually destroys native fish habitat, and ultimately recreational access to these lakes.

**For energy efficient recreation –**

**California State Parks on the Internet: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)>**



### **Clean, Drained and Dry**

Vessels wishing to launch at any of the San Luis Reservoir boat ramps: O'Neill Forebay, Basalt, Dinosaur Point, or Los Banos Creek Detention Dam must be clean and clear of any aquatic vegetation, or other aquatic organisms. Vessel must have all storage areas, ski lockers, engine areas, ballast tanks, and live wells completely drained of any water.

Water that collects in low lying areas of vessels even with the drain plug out must be removed. This includes tap water from washing or rinsing of vessels. The larvae of the Quagga Mussel are microscopic and cannot be detected without very specialized equipment. Therefore, there is a zero tolerance for any water on the vessel.

No moisture of any kind can be in or on the vessel. This includes wet equipment, lifejackets, towels, ropes, or wet suits – Anything brought into the lake with the vessel must be clean and dry.

### **Quarantined Vessels**

Any vessel which fails an inspection will be designated as quarantined.

Once a vessel is quarantined, it cannot be launched at San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area or any other body of water for seven calendar days. After seven days, this vessel must meet all the above inspection criteria when it returns or it will not be allowed to launch and must undergo another seven day quarantine period.

Tampering with quarantine seals or attempting to launch a vessel within the quarantine period is a violation of California Law and will result in a citation.

The damage done to the California water systems by these invasive mussels is dramatic and devastating. California State Parks hopes that this inspection program will be received with understanding and patience. The inspection procedure should take about seven to ten minutes. A clean drained and dry boat may launch immediately after inspection and will receive an inspection band attached between boat and trailer allowing an exemption from inspection at the next visit to the reservoir.

This free inspection program is identical to the Lake Perris and Silverwood State Recreation Areas in southern California and similar to the programs conducted by the Santa Clara County Parks and East Bay Municipal Parks.

If you have any questions about the Quagga Inspection program at San Luis Reservoir you may call 209 826 1197.

# # # # #